

7 June 1954

The President  
The White House

Dear Mr. President:

About five years ago, pursuant to NSC action, a small committee of persons outside government, but familiar with intelligence work, was constituted to review the work of the Central Intelligence Agency. I was Chairman of that Committee, which included Mr. William H. Jackson and Mr. Mathias Correa. The report which we submitted in January 1949 served as the basis for certain organizational changes which my predecessor, General Bedell Smith, put into effect shortly after he became Director of Central Intelligence.

In the five years subsequent to this report there have been basic changes in the world outlook, and in the problems which this Agency faces. The Soviet have nuclear weapons and are making important progress in various scientific and technical fields affecting their over-all strategic situation vis-a-vis the free world. Intelligence targets have changed; intelligence techniques must be altered accordingly.

Under these circumstances, I would welcome it if you felt the time had come to constitute a "Board of Consultants" to review the work of the Agency, its programs, techniques and administrative setup, as well as its progress in carrying out its statutory duties and, in particular, its duty to coordinate and make more effective the intelligence operations of government. Such a study could include a review of our personnel policies and of our methods of controlling the expenditure of the unvouchered funds entrusted to us by the Congress.

It is my belief that reviews of this nature should be carried out at periodic intervals as the National Security Council might determine to be appropriate.

While I might constitute such a board by my own action, I believe that I could only secure the high caliber of men required to carry out this mission if you, yourself, took the initiative in constituting the Board thereby emphasizing the importance you place upon it.

Faithfully yours,

Allen W. Dulles  
Director